

Remarks/Arguments:

This amendment follows an interview with the Examiner on September 5. The courtesy of the interview was appreciated.

Claim 1 stands rejected as anticipated by Dang (Patent 5935162). In Dang, opposed inner lobes of the adjacent patterns are directly interconnected by tie members 50 (Fig. 3), 250 (Fig. 6) or 350 (Fig. 7). In contrast, the bridge members of claim 1 interconnect opposed *outer* lobes.

Claim 1 is amended above to recite that the bridge directly connects two opposed outer lobes of adjacent lines of the pattern. As amended, claim 1 is novel over Dang.

It may be observed, by comparing Applicant's pattern with those of Dang, that, because the bridge member directly connects opposed outer lobes of the pattern, the bridge may be quite short, as compared to those of Dang. This would produce greater axial stability in Applicant's device, other factors being equal. Moreover, the radial characteristics are not affected by the placement of the bridge member. We therefore submit that the invention defined by claim 1 is not obvious over the prior art of record.

We believe that claim 1 as amended is patentable over the prior art, and that this application is now in proper form for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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